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Message Text

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20
ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 COA-02 CG-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02 COME-00

EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

/207 W
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R 062112Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1268
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3737

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR
SUBJ: LOS: CONVERSATION WITH TWO MEMBERS OF ECUADOREAN DELEGATION
TO CARACAS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 67788

1. EMBOFF AND NAVATT HELD CONVERSATION JUNE 4 ON LOS MATTERS AND FORTHCOMING CARACAS CONFERENCE WITH RETIRED ADMIRAL EDMUNDO MENA, WHO IS NOW ON ECUADOREAN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AND COMMANDER MARCO ARTURO LEON, DIRECTOR OF MARITIME INTERESTS IN THE ECUADOREAN NAVY. BOTH WILL BE MEMBERS OF GOE DELEGATION TO THE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE.

2. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED FROM DISCUSSION. FIRST, BOTH MENA AND LEON STRESSED RESOURCE ASPECT OF GOE LOS POSITION AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR US CONCERN FOR FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND OVERFLIGHT AS WORLD POWER. SECOND, THEY STRESSED THAT GOE ADAMANT IN ITS OPPOSITION
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TO OUR SPECIES APPROACH THE FISHING PROBLEM. THIRD, THEY

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EXPRESSED VIEW THAT VARIOUS POSITIONS ON POLLUTION ISSUE COULD BE RECONCILED WITH RELATIVE EASE. FOURTH, THEY OBJECTED TO US PROPOSAL FOR COMPOSITION OF INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY STATING THAT IT WOULD GIVE DISPROPORTIONATE INFLUENCE TO GREAT POWERS. FINALLY, THEY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CARACAS CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BRING FINAL RESULTS. MORE LIKELY OUTCOME WOULD BE SOME SORT FO STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED BY SCHEDULING OF ANOTHER LOS MEETING. BOTH EXPECTED CONFERENCE TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION FOR AT LEAST FIRST FOUR WEEKS.

3. LEON AND MENA ALSO STATED THAT DEFINITIVE DECISION STILL PENDING AS TO WHO WOULD HEAD GOE DELEGATION ALTHOUGH THIS LIKELY TO BE DETERMINED SOME TIME THIS WEEK.

4. MENA, 56, HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF KEY MILITARY POSITIONS. HE WAS ECUADOREAN CNO FROM SEPTEMBER '68 TO FEBRUARY '69, SUBSEQUENTLY ASSUMING POSITION OF CHIEF, ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, A JOB HE HELD UNTIL RETIREMENT IN 1970. MENA HAS BEEN IN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ECUADOREAN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL OFR THE PAST THREE YEARS. LAST KNOWN COMPLETE BIO OF MENA AVAILABLE IN VOLUME 6 OF DIA BIO DATA AP-1-610-1-1-INT DATED JUNE 1, 1965. MENA SPEAKS LITTLE ENGLISH.

5. COMMANDER LEON, 39, IS NEW TO HIS POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF MARITIME INTEREST, A KEY POLICY JOB IN ECUADOREAN NAVY. FROM 1972 TO FEBRUARY 1974 HE WAS DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF THE ECUADOREAN TANKER FLEET (FLOPEC) AND PRIOR TO THAT HE SPENT CLOSE TO SIX MONTHS WORKING ON PETROLEUM MATTERS IN THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES. LEON SPENT A YEAR STUDYING IN THE US IN THE EARLY 1960'S (HE HAS A US BORN SON) AND SPEAKS ENGLISH. HE APPEARS LESS RESERVED THAN MENA AND, IN VIEW OF HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND HIS PRESENT POLICY JOB IN THE NAVY, MAY PROVE A WORTHWHILE CONTACT IN CARACAS. LATEST BIO CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBMITTED ON LEON WAS CONTAINED IN QUITO DAO REPORT NUMBER 6-828-0019 74 DATED FEBRUARY 21, 1974.
BREWSTER

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